

March 27, 2000

Department of the Army
Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers
Attention: Lower Snake River Study
201 North Third Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362

To Whom It May Concern:

I oppose Alternative 4, the dam breaching alternative.

The EIS shows that there are uncertain biological benefits from breaching the lower four Snake River dams. Although we believe the negative economic impacts are seriously underestimated, the EIS does show certain economic harm.

The region needs a recovery plan with a clear vision, goals and priorities. We need a plan that rebuilds healthy fish runs, while still maintaining a healthy economy in our communities.

Recent studies show that survival is as high as it was in the 1960's and 1970's – before the dams were built. If survival through the reservoirs is as high now as it was before the Snake River dams were built, returning dams to pre-dam conditions is *not* the answer.

Dam breaching will create significant negative environmental impacts, with loss of habitat for resident fish and wildlife as well as increased air pollution from trucks and from fossil fuel burning power plants.

Dam removal is not the silver bullet answer. This alternative is extreme, risky, and may not even help the fish, and will most certainly hurt our economy. Our jobs and Northwest way of life are at stake.

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